

S-291  
Clement Sterling House  
Bedsworth vicinity  
private

c.1840 - 1850

Supported by a raised brick foundation, the two-story Clement Sterling house stands prominently against the low-lying land near Johnson's Creek near Bedsworth. The side hall/double pile house was extensively remodeled around the turn of the century with the relocation of the chimney and the addition of narrow gable end windows. In spite of the exterior alterations the mid nineteenth-century interior was left largely unchanged. The generously proportioned side hall has flat panel wainscoting, molded chair rail, and a decorated staircase. Sawn scrolls embellish each step end. Five-panel doors open into the adjacent rooms which are finished in a similar manner. The back room, or dining room, has a late Federal period mantel. The woodwork retains contrasting layers of mahogany and tiger maple graining. In addition, the kitchen survives with a paneled hearth wall, an enclosed winder stair and flush panel wainscoting.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-291

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Goldy Brittingham House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number East side of Crisfield-Marion Road (MD 667) ☐ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

## 3. Classification

| Category                             | Ownership                                 | Status                                     | Present Use                            |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district    | <input type="checkbox"/> public           | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private          | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure   | <input type="checkbox"/> both             | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress  | <input type="checkbox"/> educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site        | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                 | <b>Accessible</b>                          | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object      | <input type="checkbox"/> in process       | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted   | <input type="checkbox"/> government    | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific        |
|                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation    |
|                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                | <input type="checkbox"/> military      | <input type="checkbox"/> other:            |

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

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|                                    |  |   |   |                    |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition                          |  | Check one                                   | Check one   |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed               |   |   |                    |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Goldy Brittingham house stands on the east side of the Crisfield-Marion Road near Bedsworth, Somerset County, Maryland. The large two-story frame house faces west with the gable roof running on a north/south axis.

The c. 1840-1850 two-story side hall double-pile frame house was erected on a raised seven-course common bond brick foundation, and it is uniformly sheathed with weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles. Extending to the rear and resting on a raised foundation is a two-story three-bay frame kitchen.

The west (main) elevation is three bays across with an entrance in the north bay. The foundation wall is pierced by six-pane windows while the first floor is lighted by large size nine over nine sash windows, and the second floor is pierced by nine over six sash windows. The glazed front door is framed by six-pane sidelights and a three-light transom. The entrance bay is covered by a gable roofed stoop supported by Tuscan columns and sheathed with fishscale shingles. Access to the elevated porch was provided by a square post handrail which has almost collapsed. The boxed cornice above the second floor windows is trimmed with a bed molding.

The south side is divided into four bays with each bay marked by a slender six over six sash window on the first floor and six over four sash windows on the second. A three-part window lights the attic. These slender windows were inserted when the original interior and brick chimneys were destroyed and replaced by an interior brick stove stack. Corresponding patches in the flooring and plaster support the former location of the original stacks. The south foundation wall is marked by a six-pane window and a board and batten side entrance door.

The north gable end is divided into three bays with each bay distinguished by a large size nine over nine sash window on the first floor and six over six sash window on the second floor. The attic is pierced by a single six over six sash light.

Extending to the rear is a two-story kitchen wing, three bays across and one room deep. The south side was formerly covered by a side porch on brick piers, but it has fallen in. A center five-panel door is flanked by six over six sash windows on the first floor, whereas the second floor is lighted by two six over six sash windows. The cornice is boxed and trimmed with a Greek Revival period bed molding. The east gable end of the kitchen has a board and batten door entering into the cellar, while an interior end chimney rises from the gable end. The north side of the kitchen is similarly detailed.

The first floor interior of the main block is divided into three rooms with a spacious side hall and two rooms to the south. Each first floor room is fitted with flat-panel wainscoting, chair rail, and baseboard. Consistent throughout the house is the paint scheme of the wainscoting. Each wainscot panel is finished in a mahogany

## 8. Significance

Survey No. S-291

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Goldy Brittingham house is one of the most significant second quarter of the nineteenth century dwellings that stands on the periphery of Crisfield. Due to its location in a low-lying area, the house was erected on a raised common bond foundation. The relatively plain exterior finish is contrasted inside with expertly crafted and painted late Federal period woodwork including flat-panel wainscoting, molded chair rail, baseboard, five-panel doors, and a raised panel hearth wall in the kitchen. Although the stair retains scrolled stringer decoration, it has lost its Federal period newel posts and slender rectangular balusters. The mahogany and tiger maple graining is very rare in Somerset County.

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## PS-2746

Description continued

grain while the posts and stiles were painted in a tiger maple stripe. The baseboard is finished in dark grey or black. The stair is located against the north wall and is distinguished by scrolled decoration on each step end and a paneled stair box below the stringer. The newel post and balustrade have been removed. A flat four-panel door opens into the space beneath the stair.

The parlor or west room is approximately square and fitted with grained wainscoting, molded chair rail and molded baseboard. A stove hole is located along the middle partition where the chimney stack was relocated. A clear patch in the flooring on the south side of the room indicates the former location of the hearth.

Behind the parlor is the apparent dining room which is finished in a similar manner to the parlor. However, the dining room does have a late Federal period mantel with simple pilasters, a paneled and grained frieze and a stepped mantel shelf. The old hearth opening is covered with a grained panel. Located to the right of the mantel is a glazed door cupboard, and to the left are three small single-panel chimney breast cupboard doors. An identical patch in the flooring and seams in the plaster and wainscoting indicate the size and location of the former chimney stack. A four-panel door pierces the rear wall of the dining room and provides passage to the kitchen.

The one-room plan kitchen is distinguished by a paneled hearth wall as well as an enclosed winder stair and built-in cupboard. The plain Federal period mantel has simple pilasters, a two-panel frieze and a plain board shelf. The overmantel paneling consists of four raised panels with a cupboard door worked into the far left panel. To the right of the hearth a raised six-panel door opens into a closet. In contrast to the other doors in the house this raised panel design is a much earlier form and appears to have been reused. The enclosed stair rises to the left of the hearth behind a four-panel door, and a single-panel door opens into the stair closet. Similar to the rest of the house the kitchen has flat-panel wainscoting and molded chair rail and baseboard.

The second floor of the main house is divided like the first floor with a side hall and two adjacent rooms. The plastered wall surfaces are distinguished by the early nineteenth century chair rail and baseboard. The attic stair is enclosed and rises from a small room that is partitioned from the hall. The second floor of the kitchen wing is divided into two rooms and a side hall and it is finished in a plain manner.

The attic of the main house is undivided and unfinished. The common rafter roof has been partially reworked, but several original rafter pairs retain their lapped and pinned peak joints. The narrow brick stove stack rises in the center of the space, and it is supported by wood framing. Patches in the attic floor on the south end indicate the position of the position of the original stacks.

[illegible]

S-291  
 Goldy Brittingham House  
 Grisfield, MD. VA Quadrangle 1986

Q 291





Clement Sterling House                      S-291  
Bedsworth Vicinity, Somerset County  
West Elevation  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Clement Sterling House                      S-291  
Bedsworth vicinity, Somerset County  
Southeast Elevation  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Clement Sterling House                      S-291  
Bedsworth vicinity, Somerset County  
Side Hall  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Clement Sterling House                      S-291  
Bedsworth vicinity, Somerset County  
Kitchen Paneling  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
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Clement Sterling House                      S-291  
Bedsworth vicinity, Somerset County  
Dining Room Doors  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Clement Sterling House            S-291  
Bedsworth vicinity, Somerset County  
Stringer Decoration  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Clement Sterling House                      S-291  
Bedsworth vicinity, Somerset County  
Dining Room Mantel  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Clement Sterling House                      S-291  
Bedsworth Vicinity, Somerset County  
Five-Panel Door  
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Clement Sterling House                      S-291  
Bedsworth vicinity, Somerset County  
Six-Panel closet door  
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Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Clement Sterling House                      S-291  
Bedsworth vicinity, Somerset County  
Side Stair  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Clement Sterling House            S-291  
Bedsworth vicinity, Somerset County  
Dining Room Mantel  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Clement Sterling House            S-291  
Bedsworth vicinity, Somerset County  
Dining Room Mantel  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust





Clement Sterling House                      S-291  
Bedsworth Vicinity, Somerset  
South Elevation  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust